

Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 3, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom commencing at approximately 7:00 PM and chaired by John Y, Vice President., Other Board members present were: Barry R., Treasurer , Barb BS, Secretary, Jan M, Board Member and Linda W, Board Member and Office Liaison.

- 1) **Opening:** John opened the meeting with a cleansing breath/moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and a short reading of Tradition 8.
- 2) **Attendance:** There were 27 members present including 5 board members and 22 IR's, including 1 new IR.

3)

June IR Meeting Minutes -

The minutes from the July, 2023 IR Meeting were unanimously approved.

4)

TREASURER'S REPORT – AFG OF STL

As of June 30, 2023

Submitted by Barry Russell, Treasurer

For August 3, 2023 IR Council Meeting

Month of June 2023

1. Overall, the month of June 2023 produced **Total Revenue** of \$5,431 versus the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,693. **Net Operating Deficit [Loss]** was \$824, and the YTD result was a \$5,936 Surplus.
2. On a cash flow basis, Literature Sales were \$1,916 [versus 2023 budgeted average of \$1,833].
3. Group Contributions were \$1,676 [versus the 2023 budgeted average at \$2,108]. Miscellaneous Contributions of \$847 were below our average 2023 monthly expectations of \$1,108.
4. **Monthly Expenses**, at \$6,255, were above the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,688.

5. Literature expenditures of \$2,032 were above the 2023 budgeted monthly average of \$1,417.
6. Our YTD Surplus of \$5,936 compared to 2022 YTD of \$46 is a good place to be. That is a \$5,890 Variance in favor of 2023.
7. **Total cash in checking** was \$6,604. Total Cash and Reserves were \$61,470. Note the value of the reserves has declined, in the first six months, due to interest rate market reactions.
8. It looks like my cautionary comments about the month of June were too conservative. The first half of 2023 has finished strongly.
9. The previously approved drawdown of \$5,000 still has \$2,000 left undrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Barry Russell, Treasurer

The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

5) **Public Outreach** - John reported that he has no real updates because there was no meeting in July. He said there is a lot of momentum on the committee and that they will be reaching to schools and making other educational outreach efforts. He said that there are a lot of excellent people on the committee - they are always looking for new members. Information about the monthly meeting is on the website.

6) **After Hours and Office Reports** -

AIS IR Office Report August 2023

Central Services Ted Drew's Ice Cream Social

Sunday August 20th 2023

14 Sunnen Dr. Suite 144 Maplewood, MO.

1-4 pm.

Mo. Area Al-Anon History Displays

Showing of The Story of Father Dowling and the men and women who brought A.A. to St. Louis and the Eastern Area of MO. 1:30 & 3:00 pm

We hope to meet our members at this event.

Answering Service Report

Are you looking for a Service Commitment?

Peggy has informed the Answering Service volunteers and AIS Board that it is time for her to pass the Coordinator baton to someone else. She has been doing this for over 5 years and, as we know, it is meant to be shared not kept.

If you are looking for a service commitment, please call the AIS office for more information.
314-645-1572

Peggy's last day as Answering Service Coordinator is August 31st.

Thank you, Peggy, for your service to the Office and all members of Al-Anon.

The Answering Service had 2 calls for July.

Both calls were received on 7/12

First call was a request for call back. The volunteer called and left a message inviting a call back. Second call was a woman who answered the call back and was provided information about Al Anon, Alateen and how to access the website.

The new daily reader is here. Call the office for availability.

AIS Office August Sales and Website Report

Web Activity

3,266 views from 1,488 visitors.

8 web orders

AIS Literature

175 Newcomer Packets, 125 Are You Troubled..., 32 How Al-Anon Works

NEW BOOK: A Little Time for Myself: 141 Sold

Joe O. AIS Staff Member

Newcomer Packets

The Office now has a Welcome to Al-Anon Email. Please let your groups (especially our Zoom meetings) know of our new guidelines. 18 emails went out to NC's for the month of June. Only 2 NC packets were given out in-person in July.

Meeting Updates

Please let the office know of any change to your meetings by emailing the new information to aisoffice@stl-al-anon.org

To get the meeting changes in the weekly updates it is best to get the information to the office by Monday 9am.

Sincerely Al-Anon

Please ask your group members to sign-up for our newsletter at www.stl-al-anon.org.

My Journey Journals

Journals are \$12.00 each.

Events

We love to post Al-Anon events!!

Spanish Speaking Volunteers

We are looking for Spanish speaking volunteers. We only have two: one female and one male. In Service,
Susan C.

One IR asked about what Spanish-speaking volunteers that are requested in the report actually do. She has people in her group who might volunteer. Barb speaks Spanish and

is a volunteer so she explained what they do. Linda mentioned the Ice Cream Social on 8/20. A question was asked about the presentation that was going to be given and Linda responded. The documentary film is an AA history, but there will be other information available regarding the history of Al-Anon in the greater St Louis area. Linda talked about the benefits of the AIS office and what it provides, and that she's hopeful many members will attend the ice cream social to experience the office in person. Barb mentioned mailing out the flyer to members of her home group and bringing copies to her meeting. One IR recently spoke at a meeting about the benefits of the AIS office in St. Louis and its history. One IR asked if the AIS office will be open for literature sales during the ice cream social. Linda said it will be discussed at the next staff meeting, and that she is hopeful they will be able to manage some literature sales. An IR inquired about sufficient space in the office and Linda responded that because it is a combined event with AA, the entire building will be open.

7) Old Business:

Ideas for services AIS office could provide: One IR asked if the office could provide guidelines/assistance for reliable hybrid meetings. Linda said that there was no one in the office that she was aware of with this type of expertise. She recommended that groups wishing to do this speak with other groups that have done it successfully to come and show them how to do it. Discussion took place on frustrations and successes with attempts to do hybrid meetings. Mention was made of guidelines published by the area or the WSO recently on how to do this successfully and the possibility of publishing this with permission in Sincerely Al-Anon. Barb talked about doing a survey of other AIS offices in the U.S. from information the WSO provided - calling or emailing them to see what services they provide and don't provide.

8) New Business:

A) Discussion took place on why AIS is needed and how it interacts with the groups/districts/state/WSO. John mentioned that we were evaluating the services AIS provides -we don't want to provide redundant services, and we want to provide needed services. One IR mentioned that she had just finished a three year term as a GR for her group and really couldn't figure out the GR's purpose - she said her group no longer has a GR. Linda talked about the AIS office not being part of the governing hierarchy of Al-Anon and all the services the AIS office provides. Barry mentioned that this will be an ongoing discussion/evaluation. Barb broke down the differences in prices buying the new reader buying from AIS office/WSO/Amazon. AIS: \$17, WSO: \$17 plus \$10 shipping, Amazon: \$43.95. John discussed expenses comparing spread sheets of AIS/the Area - AIS definitely has more expenses - it is an asset/resource provided to the groups/districts/state.

- B) Tri-Fold brochure - John discussed the Board's decision to move forward with a new tri-fold brochure providing the history of the AIS office and all the services we provide. Barry has obtained costs of printing, and they are minimal.
- C) Discussion took place on how individual groups divide up their contributions to the AIS office. Many just do thirds to AIS/State-Area/District or do fourths including the WSO. The AIS office has more expenses (rent/salaries/insurance, etc.) and provides more services than the Districts or the State. The WSO receives contributions from all over the country. A more fair division would be for groups to donate 50% to the AIS office and divide up the rest to the other entities. One IR mentioned that this is done in many AA groups. Even if groups don't approve 50%, it should be more than a third due to AIS's expenses and the services it provides. This should be discussed in each group's group conscience meeting. The tri-fold that AIS is working on will be beneficial in these discussions once it is available.
- D) After Hours Phone Coordinator - discussion took place on what the role entails - probably only about an hour a week of service time. The current coordinator, Peggy W, will leave this role at the end of August whether we have a replacement or not. It would be unfortunate not to be able to provide this service. Linda said that there will be an article in the next SA about the role and what it entails. The role isn't as difficult/time consuming as many members think.

9) Open Sharing-

One IR shared that her group (Grateful Every Day) provides babysitting (Friday Night at 7:30 in the Kirkwood area).

Barb announced a new meeting that Susan C sent out: Sullivan AFG, Thursday at 6:30 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church at 528 Church Street in Sullivan MO.

Lois raised a concern about aligning the language we use with our Traditions (example - the difference between using "donation" and "contribution." Her home group members are very sensitive to this.

Bob mentioned a flyer he received regarding a new introductory informational meeting in Alton (District 18). Newcomers come in and they are given general information about Al-Anon and directed to meetings. He will send this information into the AIS office so it can be listed. They are looking for volunteers to assist with this meeting.

- Next meeting is Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM on Zoom